



Photo — courtesy L.D.S. Church

Oldest home in Utah built by the Mormon pioneers, Salt Lake City

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Story of Pioneer Life in Utah

First homes of the pioneers

"Pioneer life in Utah, class, is the subject of today's story. We shall learn the conditions under which our forefathers were forced to live," Mr. Madsen said.

"We have already learned that the first homes built by the Utah pioneers were log cabins. The cracks between the logs were chinked with wedges of wood and daubed with clay. The roofs were composed of brush covered with dirt. When the families moved into their new homes, there were no floors other than hard-packed earth."

How the pioneers lighted their homes

"Mr. Madsen, what did the pioneers do for light in their log cabins?" Jane queried.

"Light was received during the day-

hung over a tub to cool," the teacher explained. "When the last one was dipped, the first ones were cool enough to be dipped again. This process was repeated until the candles became the size desired."

Linda remarked, "It doesn't look as if they could make many candles that way."

"The pioneer women were more efficient than you think. I have been told that three or four women working together could make several dozen candles in one day."

"I have heard that the pioneers also made candles in molds. Is that true?" Elizabeth asked.

"Yes, Elizabeth, they did after they had been in Utah long enough to secure tin from which to make the molds.

"The mold was a tin can with a hole in the bottom.